

State of Alabama
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
DISASTER RECOVERY SERVICES

Bidder's Conference
April 2, 2003
10:00 AM
State Purchasing Auditorium

Responses to Questions

Question #1: Is the RFP for the Folsom Data Center? (Bryan Smith, IBM)

Response: The disaster recovery services will cover the primary data center located in the Folsom Building.

Question #2: Would the State like coverage for both data centers in the event both of them or either of them is impacted? (Bryan Smith, IBM)

Response: No, only the primary Data Center in the Folsom Building.

Question #3: The network requirements were in a diagram and attachment; but you mentioned you also wanted backup for the state telecommunications network. We'll need a more full description of those requirements. (Bryan Smith, IBM)

Response: The network recovery mentioned in the RFP applies to the core routers at 64 North Union Street, Montgomery, AL transporting data to have from the ISD mainframe. There is no expectation of recovering other telecommunication equipment or sites around the state at this time. This RFP also does not include recovery of voice or video technology. Upon award, ISD will work with the selected vendor to maintain accurate router data. It is important to note that the configuration shown could change due to growth or consolidation issues. (See Updated Hotside Attachment B – Network 041103 Updated on the Website)

Question #4: The question on the expansion and upgrades, can you be more specific? Do you have in mind what you might upgrade to or a past history of what a vendor could expect what you might increase these processors to? (Jim Ivey, Hewlett-Packard)

Response: The State has no definitive upgrade plans of the Data Center at this time. The State is currently exploring upgrades but has not reached any specific decision. The State will reserve the option to modify the initial contract to support any future upgrades in all areas – mainframe, network, midrange, servers and desktops.

Question #5: Then you want the ability to have the contractual order for additional requirements. Will you then want a fixed, firm price for those options per gigabyte or MIP per server, etc., or would those be negotiated at a later time? (Bryan Smith, IBM)

Response: New services required under the initial contract will be added to the existing contract. The State prefers fixed price costs identified in the original contract for future upgrades.

Question #6: On that same note, if you are looking for those fixed prices by the potential additional equipment – because that was one of the specific questions that we had referred to. Are you going to at least list out the potential hardware that you are looking for? (Tim Cecconi, SunGard)

Response: The State is unable at this time to provide any future upgrades or expansion information.

Question #7: Are you looking for a traditional disaster recovery arrangement, hot site? (Bryan Smith, IBM)

Response: The State is seeking the typical 24 to 48 hour recovery capability.

Question #8: Can you talk a little bit more about other options, such as posting or highly available type systems or mirroring replication of your data? (Bryan Smith, IBM)

Response: The State has no immediate requirement for data mirroring; however, the State and its agencies may at some future time require this capability of this contract. Agency

Question #9: Could you describe what backup you have to the Statehouse data center? (Bryan Smith, IBM)

Response: There is no backup for the Statehouse data center resources; however tape backups for the primary data center are stored in this facility.

Question #10: (A) When you say a SYSPLEX or you were saying the SYSPLEX environment? (B) Could you describe that in more detail? (Bryan Smith, IBM)
Response: (A) The word SYSPLEX is used to describe the SYSPLEX environment the State is currently running. The processor in the State House and the processor in the Folsom Building are logically connected to look as one system. In a Disaster Recovery situation, there is no requirement to operate in a SYSPLEX environment.

(B) The RFP only asked to backup the primary data center in the Folsom Building. These requirements are specified in Attachment A of the RFP. A description of how we operate in today's environment is not relevant to the RFP.

Question #11: Do you have tape backup as well? (Bryan Smith, IBM)

Response: Yes, tape backups are stored in the State House data center.